route was signed between the three countries aimed at improving access to Afghanistan, and upgrading the infrastructure at Chabahar port and relevant road segments.

Indo-US talks on Missile Defence Plan

248. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Principal Deputy Secretary of Defence held talks with senior officials of his Ministry and informed about U.S. Missile Defence Plans in New Delhi in January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether U.S. has held such talks with other countries also;

(c) if so, the names of the countries; and

(d) India's response in this talk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b, and (c) U.S. has held talks with its allies as well as Russia and China on the question of missile defence.

(d) The talks in New Delhi focussed on missile defence issues, contribution of missile defence to security and stability, and the latest developments in U.S. missile defence policies and programmes. Both sides agreed to further continue such exchanges.

Visit of Iranian President

249. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of Iran visited India during the last week of January;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed during his visit and the details of the agreements reached between the two countries; and

(c) whether any follow-up action has initiated on any of these matters?